

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Claims 1-5 and 7-22 remain under consideration. Claim 6 has been canceled by the present amendment and essentially incorporated into independent claims 1, 18 and 19. As amended, all claims are now directed to Applicant's preferred embodiment wherein the polymeric binder is formed by a three dimensional cross-linkable polymer that is cross-linked using a cross-linking agent.

Claims 1-22 as filed stand rejected under 35U.S.C.102(b) as anticipated by Applicant's USP 6,200,668 (" '668"). Claims 2-14 as filed additionally are objected to as informal due to the term "further" as used. By the foregoing amendments Applicant's claims have been amended to remove the informality and the independent claims have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim Applicant's invention. Reconsideration and allowance of Applicant's claims in light of the amendments and these remarks are respectfully requested.

As amended the claims no longer include the term objected to by the Examiner, and the objection to claims 2-14 is believed to have been overcome. Favorable notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 1-5 and 7-22 under 35U.S.C.102(b) is also believed to have been overcome by the above amendment. The claims are now directed to Applicant's preferred embodiment wherein a 3-dimensional cross-linked polymer is included that is cross-linked using a cross-linking agent with the binder. The '668 patent, of course known to Applicant, does not discuss or suggest such cross-linking with the binder. The advantage is clearly taught on page 22 of the specification where Sample B has a peel

test of only 10 grams, indicating a propensity for peeling or flaking. Sample A as shown in the Table on page 24 did not have the desirable peel after transfer. Only Sample C in accord with the amended independent claims shows both absence of a propensity to peel or flake and desirable peel after transfer. Therefore, claims 1-5 and 7-22 as amended are believed to be patentable, in the sense of 35U.S.C.102(b).

For the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-5 and 7-22 are in form for allowance. Such favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Please charge any prosecutorial fees that are due to Neenah Paper, Inc. deposit account number 50-3500.

Should the Examiner have any remaining questions, a telephone conference is invited to the undersigned at the number 678-518-3320.

Respectfully submitted,

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